

July 30, 1941

Memorandum of conversation with Congressman Kramer:

Almost daily for the past ten days or so I have attempted unsuccessfully to reach Congressman Kramer.

I have employed the following means:

- I have called his person secretary in his office;
- I have called at his office;
- I have called him at the committee rooms and
- I have spoken to the Clerk of the committee;
- I have telephoned him at the Floor of the House of Representatives and
- I have in person attempted to reach him at the Floor of the House of Representatives.

Until late this afternoon, I was completely unsuccessful.

When I spoke to Mr. Norwig, Committee Clerk, this morning, I asked him to please ask Cong. Kramer if the Congressman intended to answer my letter and the letters of Mr. Rogers, all of which have gone unanswered for about a month. I called Mr. Norwig back and he informed me that Cong. Kramer took the note Norwig gave him, put it on his desk and said absolutely nothing.

Finally, late this afternoon, I got in touch with Cong. Kramer by phone.

After I identified myself to the woman who answered the phone, she said, "This is that Weisberg now," and I heard Cong. Kramer's voice in the background saying, "Oh, I don't want to talk to him." The woman said, "He is on the phone now." About two minutes later, Cong. Kramer took the phone and I told him that I hated to bother him because he was undoubtedly quite busy. He said, "You've got no idea," and I replied that I had a pretty good understanding because he had been so busy he hadn't answered the letters or my telephone calls. He said, "Well, I can't bother to answer all the telephone calls I get." I again told Kramer I was sorry to disturb him but that my purpose in calling was to know whether he intended to answer my letter. He replied that he thought it needed no answer. I pointed out that we thought the transcript of all witnesses' testimony in a public session of Congressional committees was something to which the witness was entitled, especially if the witness offered to pay all the expenses. He disagreed. I pointed out that Kelton had a copy of the transcript of his testimony. Kramer said that he hadn't. I then told him that Kelton told us in the presence of others that he had had a copy and Kramer then said that Kelton had been allowed to examine the transcript under the surveillance of either Norwig or a clerk (Norwig had earlier told me that Kelton had been allowed to have a copy which he returned to the committee and that this was the committee's normal practice). Kramer said that he supposed we could look at our testimony under the eye of his employees but that under no circumstances could we have a copy. More or less as though to justify his action, he said he wasn't going to ask the committee members to have the hearings printed and that the transcript was not going to be altered by anyone in any way. I told him Kelton had informed us of corrections he had made in his and Kramer was unimpressed and denied it.

Mr. Norwig told me this morning that other members of the committee had expressed to him the opinion that these hearings should be printed.

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When I pointed out to Kramer that the unvarying practice of Congressional committees was to regard public hearings as public property and in no sense comparable with executive sessions, he got nasty and asked me if I was telling him what he could and could not do. I politely informed him that I was doing nothing except telling him ~~exactly~~ what I understood my rights to be.

I asked Cong. Kramer if he still intended not to let us have copies of the transcript and he replied that he would not let us have copies. With this the conversation ended.